I	2	3	4
West Bengal	917	934	17
Jharkhand	922	941	19
Orissa	971	972	1
Chhattisgarh	985	990	5
Madhya Pradesh	912	920	8
Gujarat	934	921	-13
Daman &Diu*	969	709	-260
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	952	811	-141
Maharashtra	934	922	-12
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	6
Karnataka	960	964	4
Goa	967	960	-7
Lakshadweep*	943	947	4
Kerala	1036	1058	22
Tamil Nadu	974	986	12
Pondicherry*	979	1001	22
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	818	846	28

**Source* : Census 2001—Provisional Population Totals, O/O Registrar General of India.

Bio-terrorism threats

2152. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed any expert group of scientists and officials of investigating agencies to look into thoroughly the bio-terrorism threats as the FBI had been doing in the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the corrective measures Government have taken or propose to take for protecting the people against bio-terrorism threats, including public awareness campaign; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.R THAKUR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken following actions in the context of the present international scenario :

1. A detailed list of biological agents used as weapons prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research along with signs and symptoms, likely method of dissemination, incubation period, lethality and the availability of vaccines, anti-microbial therapy and treatment has been circulated to Health Secretary and Director of Health Services of all States/UTs, and Central Government hospitals advising them to take precautionary steps.

2. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, 22, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-110054, an Institute under Directorate General of Health Services has been designated as the nodal agency for carrying out the tests of ' suspected Anthrax samples.

3. CD Alert, a monthly Newsletter of National Institute of Communicable Diseases titled "Bioterrorism-Public Health system to Remain Alert" exclusively on Anthrax has been widely circulated. It has also been put in the Website of MOHFW (http://mohfw.nic.in) for information of general public.

4. Do's & Don'ts has already been published in the leading National Daities regarding Anthrax.

5. A meeting-cum-workshop on Biological & Chemical Terrorism was convene by the Department of Health on 29th October, 2001 in New Delhi. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity 10 tackle any situation.

6. The situation is being monitored.